

June 19, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member DeGette:

The 75 research, life sciences industry, and patient advocacy organizations listed below join together in offering our strong support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding provisions included in the 21st Century Cures Act (H.R. 6).

The work of our research institutions and members, as well as progress in the fight against the diseases we care greatly about, depends on steady, robust funding from NIH. As you well know, as a result of flat funding, NIH's purchasing power has eroded over the past decade resulting in only one-in-seven grants being funded and countless lost opportunities for discovery and cures. H.R. 6 stands to help reverse this trend by increasing NIH's annual authorization by approximately \$1.5 billion for each of three years and creating a new mandatory Innovation Fund of \$2 billion per year to boost biomedical research above discretionary levels for the next five years. As long as the Innovation Fund supplements and does not replace regular NIH appropriations, this would be a tremendous step in the right direction.

The scientific breakthroughs that take place across this nation with funding from NIH have raised life expectancy and improved the quality of life for countless Americans. And they amount to an economic engine that sustains American international competitiveness. The blueprint for funding included in this bill has the potential to provide NIH with the resources needed to improve how we prevent and treat many of society's most vexing diseases, including the thousands for which we currently do not have effective treatments.

We commend your leadership in developing truly bipartisan legislation to address NIH funding and encourage all House members to co-sponsor this important bill, which will help ensure the United States remains the world's medical innovation leader.

Sincerely,

Adult Congenital Heart Association	Portland State University
Alliance for Aging Research	Research!America
American Association for the Advancement of Science	Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
American Association for Cancer Research	SADS Foundation
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network	Shire
American Heart Association	Stanford University
American Lung Association	Syracuse University
American Society of Hematology	The New England Council
American Society of Nephrology	The State University of New York
Association of American Universities	Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities	University of California, Berkeley
BD	University of California, Davis
Biocom	University of California, Irvine
BioNJ	University of Cincinnati
BJC HealthCare	University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus
Boston University	University of Colorado Boulder
California Life Sciences Association	University of Delaware
Californians for Cures	University of Illinois
Corning Incorporated	University of Iowa
CreakyJoints	University of Kansas
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases	University of Kentucky
FasterCures	University of Maine
Florida International University	United for Medical Research
Florida State University	University of Missouri System
Friends of Patients at the NIH	University of New Mexico
Global Healthy Living Foundation	University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
Harvard University	University of Pennsylvania
Indiana University	University of South Florida
Johns Hopkins University	University of Washington
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Mended Hearts	Vanderbilt University
Miami University (Oxford, Ohio)	Washington State University
Northern Illinois University	Washington University in St. Louis
Northwestern University	Wayne State University
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network	WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
Pediatric Congenital Heart Association	Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Emory University
Pediatric Stroke Network	
Pennsylvania Bio	